

**To:** Sawyers, Andrew[Sawyers.Andrew@epa.gov]; Bertrand, Charlotte[Bertrand.Charlotte@epa.gov]  
**From:** Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov[Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** Thur 2/27/2020 4:18:40 PM (UTC)  
**Subject:** Fwd: NBC News: 'I can't even': Emails reveal EPA officials' reaction to Trump rant on toilets, showers

**FYI**

**NBC News**

**'I can't even': Emails reveal EPA officials' reaction to Trump rant on toilets, showers**

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/i-can-t-even-emails-reveal-epa-official-s-reaction-n1143671>

**By Allan Smith**

When the top EPA official overseeing its WaterSense program first heard President Donald Trump's rant about toilets that must be flushed a dozen times and modern faucets that only provide drips of water, she was at a loss for words.

"I can't even," Veronica Blette, the chief of WaterSense in the EPA's Office of Wastewater Management, emailed a handful of colleagues on Dec. 6, attaching a video of the president's remarks. Sending another tweet highlighting Trump's comments to coworkers, Blette wrote: "Sigh."

The emails were provided to NBC News in response to a Freedom of Information Act request. The emails showed part of the agency's response to what were eye-opening remarks from the president — ones he would revisit at future campaign rallies — in which he railed against the federal regulations governing toilets, showers, sinks and dishwashers.

Speaking to reporters at the White House in early December, Trump said the EPA would be "looking very strongly at sinks and showers and other elements of bathrooms," at his direction, insisting that "people are flushing toilets 10 times, 15 times as opposed to once" and that "they end up using more water."

Last month, Trump told rallygoers in Milwaukee: "Toilets and showers. You do not get any water."

"They put restrictions on them and now they are permanent. Try going and buying a new faucet. Turn it on and no water comes out," he said, adding, "I have this beautiful head of hair. I need a lot of water. You go into the shower and ... drip. Drip."

Beth Livingston, WaterSense brand manager, had a different take, as the internal messages showed. She was responding to a faucet company executive who suggested, "(you) have your work cut out for you convincing No. 45 (Trump) on your program."

"Nothing like a challenge!" Livingston, who hoped to initiate a consumer satisfaction and product performance

survey regarding the WaterSense-approved products, responded on Dec. 9. "We don't like faucets that only put one drop of water on my hands — LOL — the only ones I think of that *might* actually just drip are for Barbie doll play houses!"

In December, EPA spokesman Michael Abboud said the agency is working across other federal agencies to "ensure American consumers have more choice when purchasing water products." The EPA pointed to that comment when reached for this story on Thursday.

Trump's remarks echo longstanding concern in some conservative circles about the regulations — complaints that leading environmentalists say are bunk — that they have protested against for the better part of 20 years.

The battle centers on a series of regulations and energy standards starting with the 1992 Energy Policy Act signed by President George H.W. Bush. That law set new limits on how much water a toilet can use and, in 1994, kicked into effect a standard that said new toilets, showerheads and faucets had to have water-saving designs. Since then, the federal government has regulated water flow of faucets and showerheads.

Legislation signed in 2018 mandates that the EPA reviews water regulations adopted before 2012, which includes the WaterSense program, a program launched in 2006. WaterSense provides an optional standard that uses less water than the mandated requirement under the Energy Policy Act.

WaterSense-approved toilets, according to the EPA's website, use about 20 percent less water than the current federal standard. With those products, "the average family can reduce water used for toilets by" 20 to 60 percent annually, according to the EPA website, adding that the water savings may lead to a household's reduction of more than \$140 annually in water costs.

WaterSense-approved showerheads use about 20 percent less water than what is required by law and lead to about 2,700 fewer gallons per year used by a family, per the EPA. For faucets, WaterSense says its approved products "can reduce a sink's water flow by 30 percent or more," and "can save the average family 700 gallons of water per year, equal to the amount of water needed to take 45 showers," the EPA says.

Libertarian-minded conservatives contend that the products lead to people taking longer showers or flushing toilets additional times, curtailing the savings and environmental impact.

Message

---

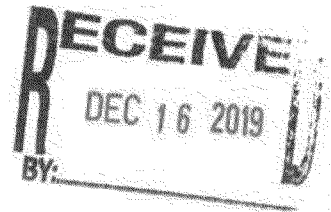
**From:** Sawyers, Andrew [Sawyers.Andrew@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 1/9/2020 4:08:18 PM  
**To:** Forsgren, Lee [Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Sylvester, Francis [Sylvester.Francis@epa.gov]; Farris, Erika D. [Farris.Erika@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: WaterSense CMS response  
**Attachments:** 20-000-1851 (1).pdf; AX-20-000-1851-Hanke response-ads.docx

Hello Lee, this is an FYI - heads up/quick review. We received a CMS letter regarding WaterSense, which is attached. Also attached is our proposed response - to be signed at the branch level. I reviewed and made some changes that align with our next steps. It's fairly straightforward, however, I wanted to give you the opportunity to review before we sent the response.

Please let me know if you have any questions. We will send out. Thanks

Andrew

Mr Andrew Wheeler  
EPA Acting Administrator  
1200 Pennsylvania Av, NW  
Washington, DC 20460



12/9/19

Dear Mr Wheeler,

I am writing in response to Donald Trump's ridiculous recent claim that low flush toilets need to be flushed 10-15 times and therefore actually waste water instead of conserving it. We have had two low-flush toilets in our house for many years and have never (well, almost never) had to flush them more than once. I also know that these models have been extensively tested and that any initial troubles were eliminated a long time ago. If for some reason the toilets in the White House are having these kind of problems they should get a plumber in there asap because the difficulty does not lie in EPA regulations.

The President also claims that low flow faucets do not supply enough water for hand washing. I know from experience during power outages in New England that you can wash your hands quite well with even the tiny amount of water supplied by a simple spray bottle, so I don't know what the President is talking about and I don't think he does either. Do you?

Finally, I don't see what the value is to not conserving water, unless the intent is to "reduce regulation" as a merely philosophical position, or to permit costly replacement of existing low flow fixtures for those who simply want to waste as much water as they can and can afford to do so. For everyone else there would be the additional effect of raising people's water bills for no particular purpose. Is that the goal of the EPA? I hope not.

This whole thing reminds me of my all-time favorite bumper sticker which read, "Caution! I brake for hallucinations." With all the real and serious environmental problems in the world today, why is the President spending even one nanosecond of his (presumably) valuable time on imaginary issues? I seriously hope you will not offer him support or encouragement in pursuing this nonissue and will not change the current regulations to satisfy his willful ignorance or personal whims.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul R Hanke". The signature is fluid and extends across the width of the line.

Paul R Hanke  
Box 69  
Warren, VT 05674



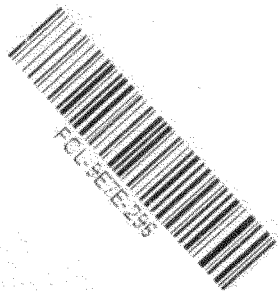
Mr Paul Hanke  
PO Box 69  
Warren, VT 05674

BURLINGTON VT 054

11 DEC 2019 P 1 L



DEC 16 2019



Andrew Wheeler

EPA

1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW

Washington, DC

2 0 4 6 0



ED\_004627\_00000588-00002

Message

---

**From:** Padgett, Thanh (CONTR) [thanh.padgett@ee.doe.gov]  
**Sent:** 12/19/2019 4:51:32 PM  
**To:** Forsgren, Lee [Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Mejias, Melissa [mejias.melissa@epa.gov]; Penman, Crystal [Penman.Crystal@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Standards for Water Usage

Sounds good Lee. Thank you.

---

**From:** Forsgren, Lee [mailto:Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2019 11:51 AM  
**To:** Padgett, Thanh (CONTR) <thanh.padgett@ee.doe.gov>  
**Cc:** Mejias, Melissa <mejias.melissa@epa.gov>; Penman, Crystal <Penman.Crystal@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Standards for Water Usage

Thanh,

Melissa Mejias will get this on my calendar.

Lee

---

**From:** Padgett, Thanh (CONTR) <thanh.padgett@ee.doe.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2019 11:40 AM  
**To:** Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Standards for Water Usage

Hello Lee,

Daniel is available tomorrow only at 10:30am.

Will that time work?

Best,  
Thanh

Thanh T. Padgett  
Executive Assistant (Contractor) to  
Assistant Secretary Daniel R Simmons  
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy

(202) 586-9220 Main  
(202) 586-7245 Direct  

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

 Cell  
(202) 586-0791 Fax

---

**From:** Simmons, Daniel  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2019 11:35 AM  
**To:** Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Fitzsimmons, Alexander <alexander.fitzsimmons@ee.doe.gov>; Padgett,

Thanh (CONTR) <[thanh.padgett@ee.doe.gov](mailto:thanh.padgett@ee.doe.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Standards for Water Usage

Lee,  
I'm on a plane, so a call today might not happen. However, I have cc'd my Executive Assistant Thanh so we can hopefully find time to talk tomorrow and I have cc'd Alex Fitzsimmons because it would be helpful to have him on the call as well.

Daniel

---

**From:** Forsgren, Lee <[Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov](mailto:Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov)>

**Date:** Thursday, Dec 19, 2019, 5:06 PM

**To:** Simmons, Daniel <[daniel.simmons@ee.doe.gov](mailto:daniel.simmons@ee.doe.gov)>

**Subject:** Standards for Water Usage

Daniel,

Can you give me a call at Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) on your standards for water usage for toilets, shower heads etc. and how they interact with EPA's Water Sense Program.

As you know there has been significant interest in this area so a call as soon as you might be available would be helpful.

Lee

**D. Lee Forsgren**

Deputy Assistant Administrator  
Office of Water  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania, Avenue NW  
Room 3219B WJC East Building  
Washington, DC 20460  
202-564-5700

Message

---

**From:** Mejias, Melissa [mejias.melissa@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 12/19/2019 4:47:06 PM  
**To:** Forsgren, Lee [Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov]; Simmons, Daniel [daniel.simmons@ee.doe.gov]; Fitzsimmons, Alexander [Alexander.Fitzsimmons@ee.doe.gov]; Padgett, Thanh (CONTR) [thanh.padgett@ee.doe.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Standards for Water Usage

I'll work with Thanh to find time that works for everyone. Thanks!

Best!,  
Mel

---

**From:** Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2019 11:44 AM  
**To:** Simmons, Daniel <daniel.simmons@ee.doe.gov>; Fitzsimmons, Alexander <Alexander.Fitzsimmons@ee.doe.gov>; Padgett, Thanh (CONTR) <thanh.padgett@ee.doe.gov>  
**Cc:** Mejias, Melissa <mejias.melissa@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Standards for Water Usage

We can make a call work tomorrow

---

**From:** Simmons, Daniel <daniel.simmons@ee.doe.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2019 11:35 AM  
**To:** Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Fitzsimmons, Alexander <Alexander.Fitzsimmons@ee.doe.gov>; Padgett, Thanh (CONTR) <thanh.padgett@ee.doe.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Standards for Water Usage

Lee,  
I'm on a plane, so a call today might not happen. However, I have cc'd my Executive Assistant Thanh so we can hopefully find time to talk tomorrow and I have cc'd Alex Fitzsimmons because it would be helpful to have him on the call as well.

Daniel

---

**From:** Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>  
**Date:** Thursday, Dec 19, 2019, 5:06 PM  
**To:** Simmons, Daniel <daniel.simmons@ee.doe.gov>  
**Subject:** Standards for Water Usage

Daniel,

Can you give me a call at Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) on your standards for water usage for toilets, shower heads etc. and how they interact with EPA's Water Sense Program.

As you know there has been significant interest in this area so a call as soon as you might be available would be helpful.

Lee



**D. Lee Forsgren**

Deputy Assistant Administrator  
Office of Water  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania, Avenue NW  
Room 3219B WJC East Building  
Washington, DC 20460  
202-564-5700

Message

---

**From:** Stephanie Salmon [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]  
**Sent:** 12/12/2019 10:26:46 PM  
**To:** Forsgren, Lee [Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: EPA - Water Efficiency Appliances

Lee

Many thanks for taking time to discuss the water efficiency/WaterSense program on Monday.  
We appreciated your insights.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need additional information on this matter.

Our plumbing manufacturer members would be happy to meet with you and your colleagues to respond to questions or provide additional information.

Regards,  
Stephanie

**Stephanie Salmon**  
**Washington Representative - Plumbing Manufacturers International**  
Potomac Government Relations  
25 Massachusetts Ave., NW | Suite 800  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
Ofc: 202-452-7135 | Cell: [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]  
Email: [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]

---

**From:** Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2019 8:59 AM  
**To:** Stephanie Salmon <[Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]>  
**Cc:** Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: EPA - Water Efficiency Appliances

Stephanie,

How about we shoot for 4:30 ish. Call me desk line at [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]

Lee

---

**From:** Stephanie Salmon <[Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2019 8:57 AM  
**To:** Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** EPA - Water Efficiency Appliances  
**Importance:** High

Lee

Good morning. I was hoping to connect with you by phone today in regards to Friday's statement from the President on plumbing products.

Is there a good time to reach you today?

Many thanks,  
Stephanie

**Stephanie Salmon**

**Washington Representative - Plumbing Manufacturers International**

25 Massachusetts Ave., NW | Suite 800

Washington, D.C. 20001

Ofc: 202-452-7135 | Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Email: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Message

---

**From:** Mejias, Melissa [mejias.melissa@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 12/16/2019 5:50:11 PM  
**To:** Stephanie Salmon [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]  
**CC:** Jackson, Ryan [jackson.ryan@epa.gov]; Forsgren, Lee [Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov]; Kerry Stackpole - PMI [kstackpole@safeplumbing.org]; Dickerson, Aaron [dickerson.aaron@epa.gov]; Hyman, Alana [Hyman.Alana@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting Request for Administrator Andrew Wheeler and Assistant Administrator Dave Ross with Plumbing Manufacturers International

Hi Stephanie, good afternoon!,

I hope you are having a great start to the week. The meeting request was well received with many thanks. Please allow us a few days to revert with days/times that work with our schedules. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to email or call me if there is anything else we may assist you with.

Best Regards,  
Melissa Mejias, Confidential Assistant to  
Dave Ross, Assistant Administrator, Office of Water  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Room 3226B WJC East  
Mobile: [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]  
Email: mejias.melissa@epa.gov

---

**From:** Stephanie Salmon [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 16, 2019 12:13 PM  
**To:** Mejias, Melissa <mejias.melissa@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Kerry Stackpole - PMI <kstackpole@safeplumbing.org>  
**Subject:** Meeting Request for Administrator Andrew Wheeler and Assistant Administrator Dave Ross with Plumbing Manufacturers International  
**Importance:** High

Mel  
Good afternoon. On behalf of Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI), please find attached and below our meeting request with Administrator Andrew Wheeler and Assistant Administrator Dave Ross. A group of PMI's member companies would like to the opportunity to meet face-to-face to discuss recent comments made by President Trump concerning low-flow plumbing products and the agency's review of these water efficient plumbing products.

Many thanks for consideration of our meeting request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Regards,  
Stephanie

Stephanie Salmon  
Washington Representative - Plumbing Manufacturers International  
25 Massachusetts Ave., NW | Suite 800  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
Ofc: 202-452-7135 | Cell: [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]  
Email: [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]



December 16, 2019

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC. 20460

The Honorable Dave Ross  
Assistant Administrator - Office of Water  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

**PMI Board of  
Directors**

**Nate Kogler**  
Bradley Corporation  
President

**Joel Smith**  
Kohler Co  
Vice-President

**Todd Teter**  
Moen, Incorporated  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Peter Jahrling,**  
Sloan Valve Company  
Immediate Past President

**Martin Knieps**  
Viega LLC

**Michael Martinez**  
Delta Faucet Company

**Chip Way**  
Lavelle Industries, Inc.

Dear Administrator Wheeler and Assistant Administrator Ross:

On behalf of Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI), I am writing to request a meeting with you and a group of our members to discuss President Trump's recent announcement that he has requested the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to review the water efficiency standards governing plumbing fixtures. As manufacturers, PMI members have direct experience producing water-efficient plumbing products for over two decades, as well as direct involvement in water efficiency standards. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these experiences.

By way of background, PMI is the nation's leading trade association for plumbing product manufacturers. Its members produce 90 percent of the plumbing products sold in the United States and employ over 460,000 workers (directly and indirectly) in over 70 locations in 25 states. Our member companies' plumbing products are found in most homes, commercial buildings, schools, restaurants, manufacturing facilities, hospitals, and hotels across the nation. Examples of these products include but are not limited to toilets, urinals, showerheads, kitchen and bathroom faucets, fixture fittings, sinks, whirlpools/tubs, and waste disposal systems.

Over the past 25 years, PMI member companies have invested millions of dollars annually in research and development to produce thousands of innovative, highly engineered plumbing products that allow consumers to choose the products that best meet their needs and values. These products meet the federal minimum flow rate standards and/or the voluntary WaterSense levels. Our manufacturers continue to raise the bar in developing the most advanced water-efficient plumbing products, without sacrificing performance. They are performance-based and require independent, third-party certification. Consumers, home improvement stores and Consumer Reports have reported for years high levels of satisfaction with the performance of WaterSense

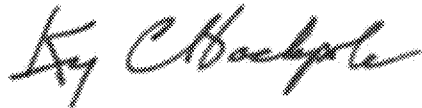
plumbing products across the board.

Use of low-flush toilets started in the 1990s after President George H.W. Bush signed the Energy Policy Act. The 1992 law said new toilets could use no more than 1.6 gallons of water per flush. The law went into effect in 1994 for residential buildings and 1997 for commercial structures.

PMI and its members have proudly participated in the EPA WaterSense program since its inception in 2006, when it was created at the EPA during the George W. Bush Administration. Plumbing manufacturers have now developed more than 30,000 models of WaterSense-labeled products for bathrooms (toilets, showerheads, faucets, and urinals).

I look forward to hearing from you about potential meeting dates to discuss this important matter. In the meantime, if you or your staff have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or Stephanie Salmon in the PMI Washington Office at [ssalmondc@gmail.com](mailto:ssalmondc@gmail.com) or 202-452-7135.

Sincerely,



Kerry Stackpole  
CEO/Executive Director  
Plumbing Manufacturers International  
[kstackpole@safep plumbing.org](mailto:kstackpole@safep plumbing.org)

cc: Ryan Jackson, Chief of Staff, EPA  
Lee Forsgren, **Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, EPA**  
PMI Board of Directors

KCS:tbm

#### **PMI Members**

*\*Bradley Corporation \*BrassCraft Mfg. Co. \*CSA Group \*Delta Faucet Company \*Dornbracht Americas \*Duravit USA  
\*Fisher Manufacturing Company \*Fluidmaster, Inc. \*Franke \*Globe Union Group, Inc. \*Hansgrohe, Inc.  
\*Haws Corporation \*IAPMO \*InSinkErator \*International Code Council Evaluation Service \*KEROX \*Kohler Co \*Lavelle  
Industries, Inc. \*LIXIL  
\*Moen Incorporated \*NEOPERL, Inc. \*NSF International \*Pfister \*Reliance Worldwide Corporation \*Similor AG \*Sloan  
Valve Company  
\*Speakman Company \*Sprite \*Symmons Industries, Inc. \*T & S Brass and Bronze Works, Inc. \*TOTO USA \*Viega LLC  
\*WaterPik \*WCM Industries, Inc.*

Message

---

**From:** Stephanie Salmon [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]  
**Sent:** 12/16/2019 5:12:49 PM  
**To:** Mejias, Melissa [mejias.melissa@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Jackson, Ryan [jackson.ryan@epa.gov]; Forsgren, Lee [Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov]; Kerry Stackpole - PMI [kstackpole@safeplumbing.org]  
**Subject:** Meeting Request for Administrator Andrew Wheeler and Assistant Administrator Dave Ross with Plumbing Manufacturers International  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt; PMI - Letter to EPA Administrator Wheeler and Asst Administrator Ross - Dec 2019.docx  
**Importance:** High

Mel  
Good afternoon. On behalf of Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI), please find attached and below our meeting request with Administrator Andrew Wheeler and Assistant Administrator Dave Ross. A group of PMI's member companies would like to the opportunity to meet face-to-face to discuss recent comments made by President Trump concerning low-flow plumbing products and the agency's review of these water efficient plumbing products.

Many thanks for consideration of our meeting request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Regards,  
Stephanie

**Stephanie Salmon**  
**Washington Representative - Plumbing Manufacturers International**  
25 Massachusetts Ave., NW | Suite 800  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
Ofc: 202-452-7135 | Cell: [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]  
Email: [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]



December 16, 2019

**PMI Board of Directors**  
  
Nate Kogler  
Bradley Corporation  
President

Joel Smith  
Kohler Co  
Vice-President

Todd Teter

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC. 20460

Dear Administrator Wheeler and Assistant Administrator Ross:

On behalf of Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI), I am writing to request a

The Honorable Dave Ross  
Assistant Administrator - Office of Water  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

**Moen, Incorporated**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Peter Jahrling,**  
**Sloan Valve Company**  
Immediate Past President

**Martin Knieps**  
**Viega LLC**

**Michael Martinez**  
**Delta Faucet Company**

**Chip Way**  
**Lavelle Industries, Inc.**

meeting with you and a group of our members to discuss President Trump's recent announcement that he has requested the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to review the water efficiency standards governing plumbing fixtures. As manufacturers, PMI members have direct experience producing water-efficient plumbing products for over two decades, as well as direct involvement in water efficiency standards. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these experiences.

By way of background, PMI is the nation's leading trade association for plumbing product manufacturers. Its members produce 90 percent of the plumbing products sold in the United States and employ over 460,000 workers (directly and indirectly) in over 70 locations in 25 states. Our member companies' plumbing products are found in most homes, commercial buildings, schools, restaurants, manufacturing facilities, hospitals, and hotels across the nation. Examples of these products include but are not limited to toilets, urinals, showerheads, kitchen and bathroom faucets, fixture fittings, sinks, whirlpools/tubs, and waste disposal systems.

Over the past 25 years, PMI member companies have invested millions of dollars annually in research and development to produce thousands of innovative, highly engineered plumbing products that allow consumers to choose the products that best meet their needs and values. These products meet the federal minimum flow rate standards and/or the voluntary WaterSense levels. Our manufacturers continue to raise the bar in developing the most advanced water-efficient plumbing products, without sacrificing performance. They are performance-based and require independent, third-party certification. Consumers, home improvement stores and Consumer Reports have reported for years high levels of satisfaction with the performance of WaterSense plumbing products across the board.

Use of low-flush toilets started in the 1990s after President George H.W. Bush signed the Energy Policy Act. The 1992 law said new toilets could use no more than 1.6 gallons of water per flush. The law went into effect in 1994 for residential buildings and 1997 for commercial structures.

PMI and its members have proudly participated in the EPA WaterSense program since its inception in 2006, when it was created at the EPA during the George W. Bush Administration. Plumbing manufacturers have now developed more than 30,000 models of WaterSense-labeled products for bathrooms (toilets, showerheads, faucets, and urinals).

I look forward to hearing from you about potential meeting dates to discuss this important matter. In the meantime, if you or your staff have any questions or need



additional information, please contact me or Stephanie Salmon in the PMI Washington Office at [ssalmond@gmail.com](mailto:ssalmond@gmail.com) or 202-452-7135.

Sincerely,



Kerry Stackpole  
CEO/Executive Director  
Plumbing Manufacturers International  
[kstackpole@safep plumbing.org](mailto:kstackpole@safep plumbing.org)

cc: Ryan Jackson, Chief of Staff, EPA  
Lee Forsgren, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, EPA  
PMI Board of Directors

KCS:tbm

#### **PMI Members**

*\*Bradley Corporation \*BrassCraft Mfg. Co. \*CSA Group \*Delta Faucet Company \*Dornbracht Americas \*Duravit USA  
\*Fisher Manufacturing Company \*Fluidmaster, Inc. \*Franke \*Globe Union Group, Inc. \*Hansgrohe, Inc.  
\*Haws Corporation \*IAPMO \*InSinkErator \*International Code Council Evaluation Service \*KEROX \*Kohler Co \*Lavelle  
Industries, Inc. \*LIXIL  
\*Moen Incorporated \*NEOPERL, Inc. \*NSF International \*Pfister \*Reliance Worldwide Corporation \*Similor AG \*Sloan  
Valve Company  
\*Speakman Company \*Sprite \*Symmons Industries, Inc. \*T & S Brass and Bronze Works, Inc. \*TOTO USA \*Viega LLC  
\*WaterPik \*WCM Industries, Inc.*



December 16, 2019

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler  
Administrator  
Water

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC. 20460

The Honorable Dave Ross  
Assistant Administrator Office of

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

**PMI Board of  
Directors**

**Nate Kogler**  
Bradley Corporation  
President

**Joel Smith**  
Kohler Co  
Vice-President

**Todd Teter**  
Moen, Incorporated  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Peter Jahrling,**  
Sloan Valve Company  
Immediate Past President

**Martin Knieps**  
Viega LLC

**Michael Martinez**  
Delta Faucet Company

**Chip Way**  
Lavelle Industries, Inc.

Dear Administrator Wheeler and Assistant Administrator Ross:

On behalf of Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI), I am writing to request a meeting with you and a group of our members to discuss President Trump's recent announcement that he has requested the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to review the water efficiency standards governing plumbing fixtures. As manufacturers, PMI members have direct experience producing water-efficient plumbing products for over two decades, as well as direct involvement in water efficiency standards. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these experiences.

By way of background, PMI is the nation's leading trade association for plumbing product manufacturers. Its members produce 90 percent of the plumbing products sold in the United States and employ over 460,000 workers (directly and indirectly) in over 70 locations in 25 states. Our member companies' plumbing products are found in most homes, commercial buildings, schools, restaurants, manufacturing facilities, hospitals, and hotels across the nation. Examples of these products include but are not limited to toilets, urinals, showerheads, kitchen and bathroom faucets, fixture fittings, sinks, whirlpools/tubs, and waste disposal systems.

Over the past 25 years, PMI member companies have invested millions of dollars annually in research and development to produce thousands of innovative, highly engineered plumbing products that allow consumers to choose the products that best meet their needs and values. These products meet the federal minimum flow rate standards and/or the voluntary WaterSense levels. Our manufacturers continue to raise the bar in developing the most advanced water-efficient plumbing products, without sacrificing performance. They are performance-based and require independent, third-party certification. Consumers, home improvement stores and Consumer Reports have reported for years high levels of satisfaction with the performance of WaterSense plumbing products across the board.

Use of low-flush toilets started in the 1990s after President George H.W. Bush signed the Energy Policy Act. The 1992 law said new toilets could use no more than 1.6 gallons of water per flush. The law went into effect in 1994 for residential buildings and 1997 for commercial structures.

PMI and its members have proudly participated in the EPA WaterSense program since its inception in 2006, when it was created at the EPA during the George W. Bush Administration. Plumbing manufacturers have now developed more than 30,000 models of WaterSense-labeled products for bathrooms (toilets, showerheads, faucets, and urinals).

I look forward to hearing from you about potential meeting dates to discuss this important matter. In the meantime, if you or your staff have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or Stephanie Salmon in the PMI Washington Office at [ [HYPERLINK "mailto:ssalmondc@gmail.com"](mailto:ssalmondc@gmail.com) ] or 202-452-7135.

Sincerely,



Kerry Stackpole  
CEO/Executive Director  
Plumbing Manufacturers International  
[kstackpole@safep plumbing.org](mailto:kstackpole@safep plumbing.org)

cc: Ryan Jackson, Chief of Staff, EPA  
Lee Forsgren, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, EPA  
PMI Board of Directors

KCS:tbm

#### **PMI Members**

\*Bradley Corporation \*BrassCraft Mfg. Co. \*CSA Group \*Delta Faucet Company \*Dornbracht Americas \*Duravit USA  
\*Fisher Manufacturing Company \*Fluidmaster, Inc. \*Franke \*Globe Union Group, Inc. \*Hansgrohe, Inc.  
\*Haws Corporation \*IAPMO \*InSinkErator \*International Code Council Evaluation Service \*KEROX \*Kohler Co  
\*Lavelle Industries, Inc. \*LIXIL \*Moen Incorporated \*NEOPERL, Inc. \*NSF International \*Pfister \*Reliance Worldwide  
Corporation \*Similor AG \*Sloan Valve Company \*Speakman Company \*Sprite \*Symmons Industries, Inc.  
\*T & S Brass and Bronze Works, Inc. \*TOTO USA \*Viega LLC \*WaterPik \*WCM Industries, Inc.

[ PAGE \\* MERGEFORMAT ]

Plumbing Manufacturers International | 1750 Tysons Blvd | Suite 1500 | McLean, Virginia 22102  
Tel: 847-481-5500 - Visit us at [ [HYPERLINK "http://www.safep plumbing.org"](http://www.safep plumbing.org) ]

Message

---

**From:** Stephanie Salmon [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]  
**Sent:** 12/9/2019 3:43:48 PM  
**To:** Forsgren, Lee [Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Dennis, Allison [Dennis.Allison@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: EPA - Water Efficiency Appliances

Thank you – will do.  
Stephanie

---

**From:** Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2019 8:59 AM  
**To:** Stephanie Salmon [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]  
**Cc:** Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: EPA - Water Efficiency Appliances

Stephanie,

How about we shoot for 4:30 ish. Call me desk line at [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]

Lee

---

**From:** Stephanie Salmon [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2019 8:57 AM  
**To:** Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** EPA - Water Efficiency Appliances  
**Importance:** High

Lee

Good morning. I was hoping to connect with you by phone today in regards to Friday's statement from the President on plumbing products.

Is there a good time to reach you today?

Many thanks,  
Stephanie

**Stephanie Salmon**  
**Washington Representative - Plumbing Manufacturers International**  
25 Massachusetts Ave., NW | Suite 800  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
Ofc: 202-452-7135 | Cell: [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]  
Email: [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]

**From:** Risley, David [Risley.David@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 12/9/2019 12:53:50 PM  
**To:** Ross, David P [ross.davidp@epa.gov]; Forsgren, Lee [Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov]; Sawyers, Andrew [Sawyers.Andrew@epa.gov]; McClain, Jennifer [McClain.Jennifer@epa.gov]; Bertrand, Charlotte [Bertrand.Charlotte@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Dennis, Allison [Dennis.Allison@epa.gov]; Wadlington, Christina [Wadlington.Christina@epa.gov]; Schollhamer, Mary [Schollhamer.Mary@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: December 6 -- E&E News PM is ready

## WHITE HOUSE

### Trump complains about low-flow toilets

Kelsey Brugger and Lesley Clark, E&E News reporters Published: Friday, December 6, 2019

President Trump today complained that Americans have to flush the toilet multiple times and directed EPA to look at "opening up" water standards.

"People are flushing toilets 10 times, 15 times, as opposed to once," he said at the White House at an event on his deregulatory agenda. "They end up using more water."

His comments, which went viral on Twitter, veered from bashing energy efficiency rules of toilets, lightbulbs, showerheads and cars.

The government for decades has required that a variety of household products follow energy-saving standards, an issue that had long enjoyed bipartisan support.

Trump has in recent months expressed disdain for lightbulbs at a time when his administration repealed Obama-era rules. The toilet-flushing complaints seemed to be new.

"We're looking very strongly at sinks and showers and other elements of bathrooms. Where you turn the faucet on, in areas where there's tremendous amounts of water, where water rushes out to sea because you could never handle it, you don't get any water — you turn on that faucet, you don't get any water," he said.

"They take a shower, the water is dripping out, very quietly dripping out," the president said.

Trump insisted that at his suggestion EPA was looking "very strongly" at "opening up the standard."

By the White House's numbers, Trump has cut regulatory costs by more than \$50 billion from nearly 400 actions at two dozen agencies. That translates to 7 ½ rollbacks for every new regulation.

The Trump philosophy has been to cut two regulations for every new one implemented. The administration has axed guidance documents — which are weaker than regulations — at high rates, and officials said they have greatly exceeded their two-out-one-in goals.

The president today also vowed to "remove costly burdens to make cars safer and more affordable."

He continued that the administration is at odds with California, saying the state, in order "to save a tiny amount of fuel, of which we have plenty," has enacted tougher emissions standards on cars.

"We can make cars much less expensive, much better and much stronger and about the same from an environmental standpoint, very close," he said.

"Our cars are much safer, they're much cheaper, they're much better, the reason they are safer is because they can be heavy. Because right now the cars are made out of papier-mache. We allow steel content."

Trump said the car companies that are siding with the California standards are the ones "that want to be politically correct."

---

**From:** Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 08, 2019 11:00 PM  
**To:** Risley, David <Risley.David@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: December 6 -- E&E News PM is ready

Can you share ?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Sawyers, Andrew" <Sawyers.Andrew@epa.gov>  
**Date:** December 6, 2019 at 4:16:21 PM CST  
**To:** "Forsgren, Lee" <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>, "Dennis, Allison" <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>, "Ross, David P" <ross.davidp@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: December 6 -- E&E News PM is ready

FYI - Allison, can you please send me the article if you have access.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Mclain, Jennifer" <Mclain.Jennifer@epa.gov>  
**Date:** December 6, 2019 at 4:45:58 PM EST  
**To:** "Sawyers, Andrew" <Sawyers.Andrew@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: December 6 -- E&E News PM is ready

---

**From:** E&E News <ealerts@eenews.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 6, 2019 4:36 PM  
**To:** Mclain, Jennifer <Mclain.Jennifer@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** December 6 -- E&E News PM is ready

[Read today's E&E News PM on the web](#)

# E&E NEWS PM

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

**E&E NEWS PM — Fri., December 6, 2019**

ED\_004627\_00002137-00002

1. WHITE HOUSE:

**Trump complains about low-flow toilets**

President Trump today complained that Americans have to flush the toilet multiple times and directed EPA to look at "opening up" water standards.

THIS AFTERNOON'S STORIES

2. CHEMICALS:

**Carper slams senior House Dems, Republicans for PFAS flop**

3. LAW:

**DOJ urges overhaul for Administrative Procedure Act**

4. CLEAN WATER ACT:

**White House starts reviewing WOTUS rewrite**

5. AIR POLLUTION:

**EPA inches forward on new standards for cancer-causing gas**

6. WILD HORSES:

**Trump admin to test mare birth control vaccine**

7. CLIMATE:

**Kyra Sedgwick, Taylor Schilling, Maura Tierney protest**

UPCOMING HEARINGS AND MARKUPS

8. CALENDAR:

**Activity for December 2 - December 8, 2019**

Get all of the stories in today's E&E News PM, plus an in-depth archive with thousands of articles on your issues, detailed Special Reports and much more at <https://www.eenewspm.com>.

Forgot your passcodes? Call us at 202-628-6500 now and we'll set you up instantly.

To send a press release, fax 202-737-5299 or email [editorial@eenews.net](mailto:editorial@eenews.net).

ABOUT E&E NEWS PM – LATE-BREAKING NEWS

E&E News PM is written and produced by the staff of E&E News. A late afternoon roundup providing coverage of all the breaking and developing policy news from Capitol Hill, around the country and around the world, E&E News PM is a must-read for the key players who need to be ahead of the next day's headlines. E&E News PM publishes daily at 4:30 p.m.

**E&E**NEWS

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Our Privacy Policy](#)

E&E News

122 C Street NW 7th Floor Washington, DC 20001

---

Phone: 202-628-6500 Fax: 202-737-5299  
[www.eenews.net](http://www.eenews.net)

---

All content is copyrighted and may not be reproduced or retransmitted without the express consent of Environment & Energy Publishing, LLC.  
Prefer plain text? [Click here](#).



Message

---

**From:** Sawyers, Andrew [Sawyers.Andrew@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 12/7/2019 3:18:59 AM  
**To:** Forsgren, Lee [Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: Here's the full Pres Trump quote on water

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 6, 2019, at 7:19 PM, Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov> wrote:

DRAFT: Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

---

**From:** Gardner, Timothy (Reuters) <[timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 6, 2019 3:35 PM  
**To:** Abboud, Michael <[abboud.michael@epa.gov](mailto:abboud.michael@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Block, Molly <[block.molly@epa.gov](mailto:block.molly@epa.gov)>; Press <[Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Here's the full Pres Trump quote on water

Hi Mike

This is the quote. Does EPA have a comment about what he is getting at?

Thanks, Tim

"We have a situation where we're looking very strongly at sinks and showers and other elements of bathrooms, where you turn the faucet on in areas where there's tremendous amounts of water, where the water rushes out to sea because you could never handle it, and you don't get any water. You turn on the faucet, you don't get any water. They take a shower and water comes dripping out. It's dripping out, very quietly dripping out. People are flushing toilets 10 times, 15 times, as opposed to once. They end up using more water. So EPA is looking at that very strongly at my suggestion. You go into a new building or a new house or a new home, and they have standards ... where you don't get water. You can't watch your hands practically, there's so little water comes out of the faucet. And the end result is you leave the faucet on and it takes you much longer to wash your hands. You end up using the same amount of water. So we're looking very seriously at opening up the standard. And there may be some areas where we'll go the other route - desert areas - but for the most part, you have many states where they have so much water that it comes down. It's called rain. They don't know what to do with it. So we're going to be opening up that, I believe, and we're looking at changing the standards very soon. And that's a little bit like the lightbulb, where you get a bulb that's better for much less money. We go back, but you have the other alternative. And you'll keep the other alternative with sinks and showers, et cetera, too. But that's been a big problem."

---

**From:** Abboud, Michael <[abboud.michael@epa.gov](mailto:abboud.michael@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 6, 2019 2:52 PM  
**To:** Gardner, Timothy (Reuters) <[timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com)>  
**Cc:** Block, Molly <[block.molly@epa.gov](mailto:block.molly@epa.gov)>; Press <[Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Clarification on President Trump saying EPA looking at water standards at his direction?

Can you send us a link to the article?

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 6, 2019, at 2:45 PM, Gardner, Timothy (Reuters) <[timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com)> wrote:

Hi – We just ran the below headline from a President Trump media opportunity where he talked about EPA considering changing water standards at his direction. Wonder if you might have any clarification about what he was mentioning.

Many thanks, Tim

TRUMP SAYS U.S. EPA IS LOOKING AT CHANGING WATER STANDARDS AT HIS DIRECTION

Best,

Timothy Gardner  
Reuters

+1 202 898-8360 (desk)  

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

 cell, Signal)

Message

**From:** Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 12/6/2019 9:48:47 PM  
**To:** Ross, David P [ross.davidp@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Jackson, Ryan [jackson.ryan@epa.gov]; Wildeman, Anna [wildeman.anna@epa.gov]; Kramer, Jessica L. [kramer.jessical@epa.gov]; Forsgren, Lee [Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov]; Woods, Andrea [Woods.Andrea@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Johnson, Taylor [Johnson.Taylor.C@epa.gov]; McFaul, Jessica [mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov]; Schiermeyer, Corry [schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Here's the full Pres Trump quote on water

Will this work?

**DRAFT:** **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**  
**Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

**From:** Ross, David P <ross.davidp@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 6, 2019 3:51 PM  
**To:** Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Wildeman, Anna <wildeman.anna@epa.gov>; Kramer, Jessica L. <kramer.jessical@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Woods, Andrea <Woods.Andrea@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Johnson, Taylor <Johnson.Taylor.C@epa.gov>; McFaul, Jessica <mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov>; Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Here's the full Pres Trump quote on water

# Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 6, 2019, at 2:40 PM, Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov> wrote:

Talking with Dave and figured out this is in reference to Watersense.  
**Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

**Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

**From:** Gardner, Timothy (Reuters) <timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 6, 2019 3:35 PM  
**To:** Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Here's the full Pres Trump quote on water

Hi Mike

This is the quote. Does EPA have a comment about what he is getting at?  
Thanks, Tim

"We have a situation where we're looking very strongly at sinks and showers and other elements of bathrooms, where you turn the faucet on in areas where there's tremendous amounts of water,

where the water rushes out to sea because you could never handle it, and you don't get any water. You turn on the faucet, you don't get any water. They take a shower and water comes dripping out. It's dripping out, very quietly dripping out. People are flushing toilets 10 times, 15 times, as opposed to once. They end up using more water. So EPA is looking at that very strongly at my suggestion. You go into a new building or a new house or a new home, and they have standards ... where you don't get water. You can't watch your hands practically, there's so little water comes out of the faucet. And the end result is you leave the faucet on and it takes you much longer to wash your hands. You end up using the same amount of water. So we're looking very seriously at opening up the standard. And there may be some areas where we'll go the other route - desert areas - but for the most part, you have many states where they have so much water that it comes down. It's called rain. They don't know what to do with it. So we're going to be opening up that, I believe, and we're looking at changing the standards very soon. And that's a little bit like the lightbulb, where you get a bulb that's better for much less money. We go back, but you have the other alternative. And you'll keep the other alternative with sinks and showers, et cetera, too. But that's been a big problem."

---

**From:** Abboud, Michael <[abboud.michael@epa.gov](mailto:abboud.michael@epa.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, December 6, 2019 2:52 PM

**To:** Gardner, Timothy (Reuters) <[timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com)>

**Cc:** Block, Molly <[block.molly@epa.gov](mailto:block.molly@epa.gov)>; Press <[Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Clarification on President Trump saying EPA looking at water standards at his direction?

Can you send us a link to the article?

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 6, 2019, at 2:45 PM, Gardner, Timothy (Reuters)  
<[timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com)> wrote:

Hi – We just ran the below headline from a President Trump media opportunity where he talked about EPA considering changing water standards at his direction.

Wonder if you might have any clarification about what he was mentioning.

Many thanks, Tim

TRUMP SAYS U.S. EPA IS LOOKING AT CHANGING WATER STANDARDS  
AT HIS DIRECTION

Best,

Timothy Gardner  
Reuters

+1 202 898-8360 (desk)

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) cell, Signal)

Message

---

**From:** Forsgren, Lee [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A055D7329D5B470FBAA9920CE1B68A7D-FORSGREN, D]  
**Sent:** 1/8/2020 5:20:19 PM  
**To:** Jackson, Ryan [jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE:

Completely understand. Just let us know how you and the Administrator want to proceed and we will implement ASAP.

---

**From:** Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2020 12:17 PM  
**To:** Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE:

I've put the document in front of Wheeler. My initial impression is that **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)** is reading again today, maybe that's not the case. And I wanted to get Wheeler's thought on it too.

---

**From:** Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2020 8:01 AM  
**To:** Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE:

Ryan,

Let me know when it is convenient for me to come see you this morning.

Respectfully,  
Lee

---

**From:** Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2020 9:09 PM  
**To:** Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE:

No. And your know why, Lee. Come see me.

---

**From:** Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2020 3:13 PM  
**To:** Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE:

Please see attached. We are still working through the press release, but here are some key points and draft tweets and a proposed timeline with date TBD.

---

**From:** Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2020 11:57 AM  
**To:** Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE:

I need OPA and OW to put together a plan and send it to me. What we are announcing, when, why it matters, how we are announcing it. Layman speak so it can be disseminated quickly and used and understood by White House staff which also want to disseminate what we are doing. Thank you.

---

**From:** Forsgren, Lee <[Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov](mailto:Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2020 11:55 AM  
**To:** Schiermeyer, Corry <[schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov](mailto:schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Jackson, Ryan <[jackson.ryan@epa.gov](mailto:jackson.ryan@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re:

Ryan

We heard from OMB this morning that Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Lee

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 7, 2020, at 11:40 AM, Schiermeyer, Corry <[schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov](mailto:schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov)> wrote:

Will do.

---

**From:** Jackson, Ryan <[jackson.ryan@epa.gov](mailto:jackson.ryan@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2020 11:39 AM  
**To:** Schiermeyer, Corry <[schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov](mailto:schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov)>; Forsgren, Lee <[Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov](mailto:Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE:

You need to let Andrew know about this too. I think his expectation is soon.

---

**From:** Schiermeyer, Corry <[schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov](mailto:schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2020 11:39 AM  
**To:** Jackson, Ryan <[jackson.ryan@epa.gov](mailto:jackson.ryan@epa.gov)>; Forsgren, Lee <[Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov](mailto:Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE:

OW is working on a plan for Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

I will have more today.

---

**From:** Jackson, Ryan <[jackson.ryan@epa.gov](mailto:jackson.ryan@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2020 11:34 AM  
**To:** Forsgren, Lee <[Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov](mailto:Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov)>; Schiermeyer, Corry <[schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov](mailto:schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE:

This is something that I know the WH will call us about. I need to know the answer to this today.

---

**From:** Jackson, Ryan

**Sent:** Monday, January 6, 2020 9:12 AM

**To:** Forsgren, Lee <[Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov](mailto:Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov)>; Schiermeyer, Corry <[schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov](mailto:schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov)>

**Subject:**

What is the latest on a watersense or standards related announcement or tweet from EPA?

Ryan Jackson

Chief of Staff

U.S. EPA

**Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**

[jackson.ryan@epa.gov](mailto:jackson.ryan@epa.gov)

Message

---

**From:** Forsgren, Lee [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A055D7329D5B470FBAA9920CE1B68A7D-FORSGREN, D]  
**Sent:** 1/7/2020 4:59:05 PM  
**To:** Schiermeyer, Corry [schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re:

That should not be a problem.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 7, 2020, at 11:58 AM, Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov> wrote:

I told Alison I needed what she has today.

---

**From:** Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2020 11:58 AM  
**To:** Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re:

Will do.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 7, 2020, at 11:56 AM, Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov> wrote:

I need OPA and OW to put together a plan and send it to me. What we are announcing, when, why it matters, how we are announcing it. Layman speak so it can be disseminated quickly and used and understood by White House staff which also want to disseminate what we are doing. Thank you.

---

**From:** Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2020 11:55 AM  
**To:** Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re:

Ryan

We heard from OMB this morning that

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

**Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**



Lee

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 7, 2020, at 11:40 AM, Schiermeyer, Corry  
<[schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov](mailto:schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov)> wrote:

Will do.

---

**From:** Jackson, Ryan <[jackson.ryan@epa.gov](mailto:jackson.ryan@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2020 11:39 AM  
**To:** Schiermeyer, Corry <[schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov](mailto:schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov)>; Forsgren, Lee  
<[Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov](mailto:Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE:

You need to let Andrew know about this too. I think his expectation is soon.

---

**From:** Schiermeyer, Corry <[schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov](mailto:schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2020 11:39 AM  
**To:** Jackson, Ryan <[jackson.ryan@epa.gov](mailto:jackson.ryan@epa.gov)>; Forsgren, Lee  
<[Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov](mailto:Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE:

OW is working on a plan for Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

I will have more today.

---

**From:** Jackson, Ryan <[jackson.ryan@epa.gov](mailto:jackson.ryan@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2020 11:34 AM  
**To:** Forsgren, Lee <[Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov](mailto:Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov)>; Schiermeyer, Corry  
<[schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov](mailto:schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE:

This is something that I know the WH will call us about. I need to know the answer to this today.

---

**From:** Jackson, Ryan  
**Sent:** Monday, January 6, 2020 9:12 AM  
**To:** Forsgren, Lee <[Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov](mailto:Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov)>; Schiermeyer, Corry  
<[schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov](mailto:schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:**

What is the latest on a watersense or standards related announcement or tweet from EPA?

Ryan Jackson

Chief of Staff

U.S. EPA

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

[jackson.ryan@epa.gov](mailto:jackson.ryan@epa.gov)

Message

---

**From:** Forsgren, Lee [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A055D7329D5B470FBAA9920CE1B68A7D-FORSGREN, D]  
**Sent:** 1/8/2020 4:09:47 AM  
**To:** Jackson, Ryan [jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re:

Ryan

Will come first thing in the morning.

Respectfully,

Lee

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 7, 2020, at 9:08 PM, Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov> wrote:

No. And your know why, Lee. Come see me.

---

**From:** Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2020 3:13 PM  
**To:** Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE:

Please see attached. We are still working through the press release, but here are some key points and draft tweets and a proposed timeline with date TBD.

---

**From:** Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2020 11:57 AM  
**To:** Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE:

I need OPA and OW to put together a plan and send it to me. What we are announcing, when, why it matters, how we are announcing it. Layman speak so it can be disseminated quickly and used and understood by White House staff which also want to disseminate what we are doing. Thank you.

---

**From:** Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2020 11:55 AM  
**To:** Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re:

Ryan

We heard from OMB this morning that Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

**Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Lee

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 7, 2020, at 11:40 AM, Schiermeyer, Corry <[schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov](mailto:schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov)> wrote:

Will do.

---

**From:** Jackson, Ryan <[jackson.ryan@epa.gov](mailto:jackson.ryan@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2020 11:39 AM  
**To:** Schiermeyer, Corry <[schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov](mailto:schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov)>; Forsgren, Lee <[Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov](mailto:Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE:

You need to let Andrew know about this too. I think his expectation is soon.

---

**From:** Schiermeyer, Corry <[schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov](mailto:schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2020 11:39 AM  
**To:** Jackson, Ryan <[jackson.ryan@epa.gov](mailto:jackson.ryan@epa.gov)>; Forsgren, Lee <[Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov](mailto:Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE:

OW is working on a plan for **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

I will have more today.

---

**From:** Jackson, Ryan <[jackson.ryan@epa.gov](mailto:jackson.ryan@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2020 11:34 AM  
**To:** Forsgren, Lee <[Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov](mailto:Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov)>; Schiermeyer, Corry <[schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov](mailto:schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE:

This is something that I know the WH will call us about. I need to know the answer to this today.

---

**From:** Jackson, Ryan  
**Sent:** Monday, January 6, 2020 9:12 AM  
**To:** Forsgren, Lee <[Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov](mailto:Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov)>; Schiermeyer, Corry <[schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov](mailto:schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:**

What is the latest on a watersense or standards related announcement or tweet from EPA?

Ryan Jackson

Chief of Staff

U.S. EPA

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

[jackson.ryan@epa.gov](mailto:jackson.ryan@epa.gov)

Message

---

**From:** Forsgren, Lee [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A055D7329D5B470FBAA9920CE1B68A7D-FORSGREN, D]  
**Sent:** 2/28/2020 4:17:43 PM  
**To:** Spraul, Greg [Spraul.Greg@epa.gov]; Bertrand, Charlotte [Bertrand.Charlotte@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Watersense

---

**Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

---

**From:** Spraul, Greg <Spraul.Greg@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 28, 2020 11:12 AM  
**To:** Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Bertrand, Charlotte <Bertrand.Charlotte@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Watersense

We have a paper on it but this is a new development with Veronica's emails in the news.  
<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/i-can-t-even-emails-reveal-epa-official-s-reaction-n1143671>

Message

---

**From:** Forsgren, Lee [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A055D7329D5B470FBAA9920CE1B68A7D-FORSGREN, D]  
**Sent:** 2/27/2020 5:33:59 PM  
**To:** Schiermeyer, Corry [schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: NBC News: 'I can't even': Emails reveal EPA officials' reaction to Trump rant on toilets, showers

No problem.

---

**From:** Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2020 12:33 PM  
**To:** Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: NBC News: 'I can't even': Emails reveal EPA officials' reaction to Trump rant on toilets, showers

It may be a bit...I'm monitoring the hearing and doing rapid response.

---

**From:** Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2020 12:26 PM  
**To:** Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: NBC News: 'I can't even': Emails reveal EPA officials' reaction to Trump rant on toilets, showers

Call me on this regarding the Press availability this afternoon.

---

**From:** Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2020 10:50 AM  
**To:** Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: NBC News: 'I can't even': Emails reveal EPA officials' reaction to Trump rant on toilets, showers

FYSA...

---

**From:** Sauerhage, Maggie <Sauerhage.Maggie@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2020 10:47 AM  
**To:** AO OPA Individual News Clips <AO\_OPA\_Ind\_News\_Clips@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** NBC News: 'I can't even': Emails reveal EPA officials' reaction to Trump rant on toilets, showers

**NBC News**

**'I can't even': Emails reveal EPA officials' reaction to Trump rant on toilets, showers**

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/i-can-t-even-emails-reveal-epa-official-s-reaction-n1143671>

**By Allan Smith**

When the top EPA official overseeing its WaterSense program first heard President Donald Trump's rant about toilets that must be flushed a dozen times and modern faucets that only provide drips of water, she was at a loss for words.

"I can't even," Veronica Blette, the chief of WaterSense in the EPA's Office of Wastewater Management, emailed a handful of colleagues on Dec. 6, attaching a video of the president's remarks. Sending another tweet highlighting Trump's comments to coworkers, Blette wrote: "Sigh."

The emails were provided to NBC News in response to a Freedom of Information Act request. The emails showed part of the agency's response to what were eye-opening remarks from the president — ones he would revisit at future campaign rallies — in which he railed against the federal regulations governing toilets, showers, sinks and dishwashers.

Speaking to reporters at the White House in early December, Trump said the EPA would be "looking very strongly at sinks and showers and other elements of bathrooms," at his direction, insisting that "people are flushing toilets 10 times, 15 times as opposed to once" and that "they end up using more water."

Last month, Trump told rallygoers in Milwaukee: "Toilets and showers. You do not get any water."

"They put restrictions on them and now they are permanent. Try going and buying a new faucet. Turn it on and no water comes out," he said, adding, "I have this beautiful head of hair. I need a lot of water. You go into the shower and ... drip. Drip."

Beth Livingston, WaterSense brand manager, had a different take, as the internal messages showed. She was responding to a faucet company executive who suggested, "(you) have your work cut out for you convincing No. 45 (Trump) on your program."

"Nothing like a challenge!" Livingston, who hoped to initiate a consumer satisfaction and product performance survey regarding the WaterSense-approved products, responded on Dec. 9. "We don't like faucets that only put one drop of water on my hands — LOL — the only ones I think of that *might* actually just drip are for Barbie doll play houses!"

In December, EPA spokesman Michael Abboud said the agency is working across other federal agencies to "ensure American consumers have more choice when purchasing water products." The EPA pointed to that comment when reached for this story on Thursday.

Trump's remarks echo longstanding concern in some conservative circles about the regulations — complaints that leading environmentalists say are bunk — that they have protested against for the better part of 20 years.

The battle centers on a series of regulations and energy standards starting with the 1992 Energy Policy Act signed by President George H.W. Bush. That law set new limits on how much water a toilet can use and, in 1994, kicked into effect a standard that said new toilets, showerheads and faucets had to have water-saving designs. Since then, the federal government has regulated water flow of faucets and showerheads.

Legislation signed in 2018 mandates that the EPA reviews water regulations adopted before 2012, which includes the WaterSense program, a program launched in 2006. WaterSense provides an optional standard that uses less water than the mandated requirement under the Energy Policy Act.

WaterSense-approved toilets, according to the EPA's website, use about 20 percent less water than the current federal standard. With those products, "the average family can reduce water used for toilets by" 20 to 60 percent annually, according to the EPA website, adding that the water savings may lead to a household's reduction of more than \$140 annually in water costs.

WaterSense-approved showerheads use about 20 percent less water than what is required by law and lead to about 2,700 fewer gallons per year used by a family, per the EPA. For faucets, WaterSense says its approved products "can reduce a sink's water flow by 30 percent or more," and "can save the average family 700 gallons of water per year, equal to the amount of water needed to take 45 showers," the EPA says.

Libertarian-minded conservatives contend that the products lead to people taking longer showers or flushing toilets additional times, curtailing the savings and environmental impact.



Message

---

**From:** Forsgren, Lee [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A055D7329D5B470FBAA9920CE1B68A7D-FORSGREN, D]  
**Sent:** 2/27/2020 4:18:42 PM  
**To:** Sawyers, Andrew [Sawyers.Andrew@epa.gov]; Bertrand, Charlotte [Bertrand.Charlotte@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Fwd: NBC News: 'I can't even': Emails reveal EPA officials' reaction to Trump rant on toilets, showers

**FYI**

**NBC News**

**'I can't even': Emails reveal EPA officials' reaction to Trump rant on toilets, showers**

**<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/i-can-t-even-emails-reveal-epa-official-s-reaction-n1143671>**

**By Allan Smith**

When the top EPA official overseeing its WaterSense program first heard President Donald Trump's rant about toilets that must be flushed a dozen times and modern faucets that only provide drips of water, she was at a loss for words.

"I can't even," Veronica Blette, the chief of WaterSense in the EPA's Office of Wastewater Management, emailed a handful of colleagues on Dec. 6, attaching a video of the president's remarks. Sending another tweet highlighting Trump's comments to coworkers, Blette wrote: "Sigh."

The emails were provided to NBC News in response to a Freedom of Information Act request. The emails showed part of the agency's response to what were eye-opening remarks from the president — ones he would revisit at future campaign rallies — in which he railed against the federal regulations governing toilets, showers, sinks and dishwashers.

Speaking to reporters at the White House in early December, Trump said the EPA would be "looking very strongly at sinks and showers and other elements of bathrooms," at his direction, insisting that "people are flushing toilets 10 times, 15 times as opposed to once" and that "they end up using more water."

Last month, Trump told rallygoers in Milwaukee: "Toilets and showers. You do not get any water."

"They put restrictions on them and now they are permanent. Try going and buying a new faucet. Turn it on and no water comes out," he said, adding, "I have this beautiful head of hair. I need a lot of water. You go into the shower and ... drip. Drip."

Beth Livingston, WaterSense brand manager, had a different take, as the internal messages showed. She was responding to a faucet company executive who suggested, "(you) have your work cut out for you convincing No. 45 (Trump) on your program."

"Nothing like a challenge!" Livingston, who hoped to initiate a consumer satisfaction and product performance survey regarding the WaterSense-approved products, responded on Dec. 9. "We don't like faucets that only put one drop of water on my hands — LOL — the only ones I think of that *might* actually just drip are for Barbie doll play houses!"

In December, EPA spokesman Michael Abboud said the agency is working across other federal agencies to "ensure American consumers have more choice when purchasing water products." The EPA pointed to that comment when reached for this story on Thursday.

Trump's remarks echo longstanding concern in some conservative circles about the regulations — complaints that leading environmentalists say are bunk — that they have protested against for the better part of 20 years.

The battle centers on a series of regulations and energy standards starting with the 1992 Energy Policy Act signed by President George H.W. Bush. That law set new limits on how much water a toilet can use and, in 1994, kicked into effect a standard that said new toilets, showerheads and faucets had to have water-saving designs. Since then, the federal government has regulated water flow of faucets and showerheads.

Legislation signed in 2018 mandates that the EPA reviews water regulations adopted before 2012, which includes the WaterSense program, a program launched in 2006. WaterSense provides an optional standard that uses less water than the mandated requirement under the Energy Policy Act.

WaterSense-approved toilets, according to the EPA's website, use about 20 percent less water than the current federal standard. With those products, "the average family can reduce water used for toilets by" 20 to 60 percent annually, according to the EPA website, adding that the water savings may lead to a household's reduction of more than \$140 annually in water costs.

WaterSense-approved showerheads use about 20 percent less water than what is required by law and lead to about 2,700 fewer gallons per year used by a family, per the EPA. For faucets, WaterSense says its approved products "can reduce a sink's water flow by 30 percent or more," and "can save the average family 700 gallons of water per year, equal to the amount of water needed to take 45 showers," the EPA says.

Libertarian-minded conservatives contend that the products lead to people taking longer showers or flushing toilets additional times, curtailing the savings and environmental impact.

Message

**From:** Forsgren, Lee [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A055D7329D5B470FBAA9920CE1B68A7D-FORSGREN, D]  
**Sent:** 12/6/2019 11:12:08 PM  
**To:** Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: Here's the full Pres Trump quote on water

Ryan's point is fine.

---

**From:** Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 6, 2019 6:11 PM  
**To:** Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Ross, David P <ross.davidp@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Wildeman, Anna <wildeman.anna@epa.gov>; Kramer, Jessica L. <kramer.jessical@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Woods, Andrea <Woods.Andrea@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Johnson, Taylor <Johnson.Taylor.C@epa.gov>; McFaul, Jessica <mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov>; Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Here's the full Pres Trump quote on water

I think the original was fine. **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

---

**From:** Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 6, 2019 6:02 PM  
**To:** Ross, David P <ross.davidp@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Wildeman, Anna <wildeman.anna@epa.gov>; Kramer, Jessica L. <kramer.jessical@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Woods, Andrea <Woods.Andrea@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Johnson, Taylor <Johnson.Taylor.C@epa.gov>; McFaul, Jessica <mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov>; Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Here's the full Pres Trump quote on water

Ryan you good with this?

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 6, 2019, at 5:03 PM, Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov> wrote:

Talked with Lee, here's the new statement. Going to send this along if you're good with this Ryan?

**DRAFT:** **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

---

**From:** Ross, David P <ross.davidp@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 6, 2019 4:57 PM  
**To:** Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Wildeman, Anna <wildeman.anna@epa.gov>; Kramer, Jessica L. <kramer.jessical@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Woods, Andrea <Woods.Andrea@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Johnson, Taylor <Johnson.Taylor.C@epa.gov>; McFaul, Jessica <mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov>; Schiermeyer, Corry

<schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>

**Subject:** Re: Here's the full Pres Trump quote on water

Lee is calling shortly.

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 6, 2019, at 3:48 PM, Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov> wrote:

Will this work?

**DRAFT:** **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

**From:** Ross, David P <ross.davidp@epa.gov>

**Sent:** Friday, December 6, 2019 3:51 PM

**To:** Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>

**Cc:** Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Wildeman, Anna <wildeman.anna@epa.gov>; Kramer, Jessica L. <kramer.jessical@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Woods, Andrea <Woods.Andrea@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Johnson, Taylor <Johnson.Taylor.C@epa.gov>; McFaul, Jessica <mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov>; Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>

**Subject:** Re: Here's the full Pres Trump quote on water

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 6, 2019, at 2:40 PM, Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov> wrote:

Talking with Dave, and figured out this is in reference to Watersense. Do

### **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

**From:** Gardner, Timothy (Reuters)

<timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com>

**Sent:** Friday, December 6, 2019 3:35 PM

**To:** Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>

**Cc:** Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>

**Subject:** Here's the full Pres Trump quote on water

Hi Mike

This is the quote. Does EPA have a comment about what he is getting at?

Thanks, Tim

"We have a situation where we're looking very strongly at sinks and showers and other elements of bathrooms, where you turn the faucet on in areas where there's tremendous amounts of water, where the water rushes out to sea because you could never handle it, and you don't get any water. You turn on the faucet, you don't get any water. They take a shower and water comes dripping out. It's dripping out, very quietly dripping out. People are flushing toilets 10 times, 15 times, as opposed to once. They end up using more water. So EPA is looking at that very strongly at my suggestion. You go into a new building or a new house or a new home, and they have standards ... where you don't get water. You can't watch your hands practically, there's so little water comes out of the faucet. And the end result is you leave the faucet on and it takes you much longer to wash your hands. You end up using the same amount of water. So we're looking very seriously at opening up the standard. And there may be some areas where we'll go the other route - desert areas - but for the most part, you have many states where they have so much water that it comes down. It's called rain. They don't know what to do with it. So we're going to be opening up that, I believe, and we're looking at changing the standards very soon. And that's a little bit like the lightbulb, where you get a bulb that's better for much less money. We go back, but you have the other alternative. And you'll keep the other alternative with sinks and showers, et cetera, too. But that's been a big problem."

---

**From:** Abboud, Michael <[abboud.michael@epa.gov](mailto:abboud.michael@epa.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, December 6, 2019 2:52 PM

**To:** Gardner, Timothy (Reuters)

<[timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com)>

**Cc:** Block, Molly <[block.molly@epa.gov](mailto:block.molly@epa.gov)>; Press <[Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Clarification on President Trump saying EPA looking at water standards at his direction?

Can you send us a link to the article?

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 6, 2019, at 2:45 PM, Gardner, Timothy (Reuters)

<[timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com)> wrote:

Hi – We just ran the below headline from a President Trump media opportunity where he talked about EPA considering changing water standards at his direction. Wonder if you might have any clarification about what he what mentioning.

Many thanks, Tim

TRUMP SAYS U.S. EPA IS LOOKING AT  
CHANGING WATER STANDARDS AT HIS  
DIRECTION

Best,

Timothy Gardner  
Reuters

+1 202 898-8360 (desk)  
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) cell, Signal)

Message

---

**From:** Ross, David P [ross.davidp@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 12/11/2019 1:04:30 AM  
**To:** McDonough, Owen [mcdonough.owen@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Toilets, faucets and showerheads controversy

Owen,

Please talk to me before responding. Thanks.

Dave

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Russ Horner <Russ\_Horner@watermgt.com>  
**Date:** December 10, 2019 at 2:09:56 PM EST  
**To:** "McDonough, Owen" <mcdonough.owen@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** "Ross, David P" <ross.davidp@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Toilets, faucets and showerheads controversy

Owen –

You may not have seen the below message that I sent to you this weekend, so I am forwarding it to you so that it can come to the top of your in-box.

*Best Regards,*

Russ Horner



W: 703-370-9070 x113

Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

---

**From:** Russ Horner  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 07, 2019 10:36 AM  
**To:** Owen McDonough (mcdonough.owen@epa.gov) <mcdonough.owen@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Dave Ross (ross.davidp@epa.gov) <ross.davidp@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Message from Water Management regarding WaterSense guidelines

Dr. McDonough,

Hello. This is Rusty Horner. Your grandmother and my mother were best friends. Also you are friends with Ginny (my niece) and Ryan her husband. I have co-presented at numerous water conferences with Veronica Blette and Jonah Schein from EPA WaterSense. With some modesty, I believe that as the co-founder of



Water Management and Charter Member of the Alliance for Water Efficiency our firm has incredible amounts of knowledge that can assist EPA's Office of Water in addressing some of the recent concerns from President Trump about showers, toilets and faucets.

In addition we have considerable knowledge regarding the alarming depletion of our aquifers and what can be done to help solve this urgent problem. Would you have time for a meeting this week so that I can share some information with you?

*Best Regards,*

Russ Horner  
President



W: 703-370-9070 x113

Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Message

---

**From:** Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 12/6/2019 8:19:51 PM  
**To:** Jackson, Ryan [jackson.ryan@epa.gov]; Ross, David P [ross.davidp@epa.gov]; Kramer, Jessica L. [kramer.jessical@epa.gov]; Wildeman, Anna [wildeman.anna@epa.gov]; Bolen, Brittany [bolen.brittany@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Woods, Andrea [Woods.Andrea@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Johnson, Taylor [Johnson.Taylor.C@epa.gov]; McFaul, Jessica [mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov]; Schiermeyer, Corry [schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: Clarification on President Trump saying EPA looking at water standards at his direction?  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

**Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

---

**From:** Gardner, Timothy (Reuters) <timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 6, 2019 3:07 PM  
**To:** Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Clarification on President Trump saying EPA looking at water standards at his direction?

Hi Mike, we don't have a story as the remarks were brief  
But our Jeff Mason tweeted the below. Welcome any thoughts if it  
relates to something EPA is working on.  
Best, Tim

Trump expresses frustration about water efficiency, says sinks don't have  
enough pressure and people have to flush toilets multiple times. He says he  
has directed the EPA to look at opening up water standards. It's called rain,  
he says, referring to states with lots of water.

2:47 PM · Dec 6, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

160

Retweets

---

**From:** Abboud, Michael <[abboud.michael@epa.gov](mailto:abboud.michael@epa.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, December 6, 2019 2:52 PM

**To:** Gardner, Timothy (Reuters) <[timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com)>

**Cc:** Block, Molly <[block.molly@epa.gov](mailto:block.molly@epa.gov)>; Press <[Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Clarification on President Trump saying EPA looking at water standards at his direction?

Can you send us a link to the article?

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 6, 2019, at 2:45 PM, Gardner, Timothy (Reuters) <[timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com)> wrote:

Hi – We just ran the below headline from a President Trump media opportunity where he talked about EPA considering changing water standards at his direction. Wonder if you might have any clarification about what he what mentioning.

Many thanks, Tim

TRUMP SAYS U.S. EPA IS LOOKING AT CHANGING WATER STANDARDS AT HIS DIRECTION

Best,

Timothy Gardner  
Reuters

+1 202 898-8360 (desk)

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (cell, Signal)

Message

---

**From:** Wildeman, Anna [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=05DD0AF69BFA40429E438B7646502B99-WILDEMAN, A]  
**Sent:** 12/6/2019 8:29:15 PM  
**To:** Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: Clarification on President Trump saying EPA looking at water standards at his direction?

Dave has some insight if you can catch him today. Lee May also.

**Anna Wildeman**

Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator  
Office of Water  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460  
202-564-5700  
Wildeman.Anna@epa.gov

On Dec 6, 2019, at 2:19 PM, Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov> wrote:

Does anyone have a clue?

---

**From:** Gardner, Timothy (Reuters) <timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 6, 2019 3:07 PM  
**To:** Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Clarification on President Trump saying EPA looking at water standards at his direction?

Hi Mike, we don't have a story as the remarks were brief  
But our Jeff Mason tweeted the below. Welcome any  
thoughts if it relates to something EPA is working on.

Best, Tim

Trump expresses frustration about water efficiency, says sinks don't have enough pressure and people have to flush toilets multiple times. He says he has directed the EPA to look at opening up water standards. It's called rain, he says, referring to states with lots of water.

2:47 PM · Dec 6, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

160

Retweets

---

**From:** Abboud, Michael <[abboud.michael@epa.gov](mailto:abboud.michael@epa.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, December 6, 2019 2:52 PM

**To:** Gardner, Timothy (Reuters) <[timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com)>

**Cc:** Block, Molly <[block.molly@epa.gov](mailto:block.molly@epa.gov)>; Press <[Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Clarification on President Trump saying EPA looking at water standards at his direction?

Can you send us a link to the article?

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 6, 2019, at 2:45 PM, Gardner, Timothy (Reuters) <[timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com)> wrote:

Hi – We just ran the below headline from a President Trump media opportunity where he talked about EPA considering changing water standards at his direction.

Wonder if you might have any clarification about what he what mentioning.

Many thanks, Tim

TRUMP SAYS U.S. EPA IS LOOKING AT CHANGING WATER STANDARDS  
AT HIS DIRECTION

Best,

Timothy Gardner  
Reuters

+1 202 898-8360 (desk)

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (cell, Signal)

The content image001.jpg of type has been blocked.